



MICHELLE HELT

2018 NEBRASKA TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Michelle is a third grade teacher and has taught at Cardinal Elementary since 2002. Prior to that, she served as a Title I reading teacher, an English as a Second Language (ESL) teacher, and a resource teacher for two years. In addition to her classroom experience, Michelle is on the School Improvement Team and is a mentor for practicum students from area colleges. Michelle is also a founding member of the South Sioux City District Curriculum Council. Michelle is a 15-year veteran teacher who earned her Bachelor's Degree from Buena Vista University and a Master's Degree from Wayne State College.

A panel of Nebraska educators selected Michelle as the 2018 Nebraska Teacher of the Year. The Teacher of the Year program recognizes the contributions of classroom teachers who are exceptionally dedicated, knowledgeable and skilled and who have the ability to inspire students of all backgrounds and abilities to learn.

Michelle and the Awards of Excellence Recipients were honored by the State Board of Education at a luncheon in November. Michelle participated in the National Teacher of the Year competition in December.

MICHELLE HELT

Cardinal Elementary School

820 E. 29th Street

South Sioux City, Nebraska 68776

School: (402) 494-1662

Mobile: (712) 898-8197

michelle.helt@ssccards.org



QUOTES FROM MICHELLE

“My commitment to the profession of teaching has never wavered. I have always known teaching to be my calling and passion in life.”

“I feel my greatest accomplishment in education is consistently creating a positive, encouraging learning environment that allows all students to be successful and active participants in their education.”

“Teaching and learning are synonymous and I learn something new every day. I hope my teaching style encourages my students to do the same.”

SPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS

Nebraska Department of Education
Nebraska State Board of Education
Data Recognition Corporation (DRC)
BlueCross BlueShield of Nebraska
Nebraska Association of School Boards
Nebraska Council of School Administrators
Nebraska Parent Teacher Association
Nebraska State Education Association
Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA)
University of Nebraska
Nebraska Corn Board

COMMUNITY PARTNER

Channel 10/11

The National Teacher of the Year Program is run by the Council of Chief State School Officers.



2018 NEBRASKA TEACHER OF THE YEAR



MICHELLE HELT

Third Grade Teacher
Cardinal Elementary School
South Sioux City, Nebraska

WORKSHOP PRESENTATIONS



"BY THE STUDENT, BY THE STANDARD... WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?"

What is it we want students to know? How do we know if they are, in fact, learning what we want them to know? Taking time to answer the first two guiding questions of a Professional Learning Community (PLC) will ensure educators have a clear picture of what they are asking of students, as well as how to most effectively and efficiently monitor if students understand the content. In this workshop, we will investigate the first two guiding questions of a PLC, how to determine priority standards, and ways to measure student learning.



WHAT I NEED (WIN) TIME: A SCHOOL-WIDE PLAN TO MEET THE NEEDS OF ALL STUDENTS

We know what students need to know and how to assess them, but how in the world do we squeeze in time to enrich and intervene when students don't understand a standard, or have mastered a standard? This workshop will focus on formative assessments used to drive instruction and how thinking "outside of the box" can create a school-wide block of time for every student to get "What I Need."

GROWTH MINDSET: HOW IT IMPACTS STUDENTS AND TEACHERS IN THE CLASSROOM

*Challenges are what make life interesting.
Overcoming them is what makes life meaningful.*
-Joshua J. Marine

The power of the mind to overcome obstacles is vital to success in life. Students and teachers who possess a growth mindset find pleasure in the process of learning and do not fear failure, instead, failure is seen as an opportunity to learn. Various ways a growth mindset are woven throughout a school day, and its role in the Professional Learning Community model will be explored during this workshop. Participants will also examine how a growth mindset helps educators deal with change and daily decisions in the classroom.



STUDENT LEARNING DOESN'T HAVE TO BE PASSIVE

Who is working harder in your classroom, teachers or students? All too often the answer is teachers! Why not find ways to have your students take more control of their learning? Through the use of learning targets, proficiency scales, student reflection, as well as high energy transitions and cooperative learning strategies, students will become more invested in their learning, resulting in higher student performance. This session will focus on ways to engage students, while at the same time allowing for students to reflect on their learning and next steps in the learning process.